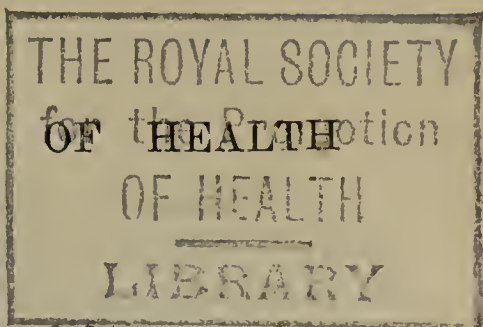


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REPORT OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER  
FOR THE YEAR 1944.

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1944.

Area within M. C. limits (exclusive of lake)	...	8,317 acres
Population at census of 1931	...	284,155
Estimated mean population, 1944	...	347,880
Number of live births registered	...	15,237
Birth-rate per 1,000 population	...	43·8
Birth-rate corrected for non-residents	...	31·5
Number of infantile deaths	...	2,208
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 births	...	145
Number of stillbirths	...	659
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 births, live and still	...	41·5
Number of deaths	...	8,890
Crude death-rate per 1,000 population	...	25·6
Death-rate corrected for non-residents	...	17·6
Pneumonia	{ Number of deaths	580*
	{ Death-rate per 1,000 population	1·7
Phthisis	{ Number of deaths	545*
	{ Death-rate per 1,000 population	1·6
Enteric Fever	{ Number of deaths	351*
	{ Death-rate per 1,000 population	1·0
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	{ Number of deaths	885*
	{ Death-rate per 1,000 population	2·5
Dysentery	{ Number of deaths	174 <sup>1</sup>
	{ Death-rate per 1,000 population	0·5

## POPULATION.

The estimated population based on the census of 1931 was 347,880, exclusive of the Military and Shipping.

## BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The birthrate was 43·8 as against 46·2 for the previous year.

The crude and corrected death-rates were 25·6 and 17·6 respectively as against 21·2 and 14·3 for the previous year.

## INFANT MORTALITY.

The infant mortality rate was 145 per 1,000 births as against 123 for the previous year. There was an increase in the number of deaths from congenital debility and premature birth, which accounted for the rise in the infant mortality rate.

## MAJOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were 32 cases of smallpox and no cases of cholera or plague. Of the 32 cases, 28 occurred between October 27, and December 24. A detailed report on that epidemic has already been submitted.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES (GENERAL).

4,883 town cases of notifiable diseases were registered as against 3,143 cases for the previous year. There was an increased incidence of most of the infectious diseases.

## MUNICIPAL FREE DISPENSARIES.

110,727 patients were treated at the free dispensaries as against 112,178 for the previous year. The total visits was 248,293 as against 239,417 for the previous year. The daily average attendance was 804 as against 777 for the previous year. The total number of domiciliary visits by the Medical Officers was 253 as against 170 for the previous year.

\* Includes deaths of non-residents in hospitals.

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## GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

*Increased Mortality Rates.*—The maternal mortality rate has not been given above. Owing to the adoption during the year under review of the 1938 revision of the International List of Causes of Death, the classification of deaths has been more elaborate than before. Puerperal septicæmia which is the major cause of maternal deaths accounted for 74 deaths as against 68 in the previous year, but 89 deaths came under the category of “other accidents and conditions of childbirth and the puerperium, specified and unspecified” as against 32 under that head during the previous year.

It is too early to say how far that increase could be attributed to the greater exactitude in the classification and certification of deaths in terms of the revised International List.

But the fact that there was a general increase in maternal deaths and mainly under “other causes”, taken in conjunction with the increased infant mortality chiefly under “congenital debility and premature birth”; and the increase in the general death rate in respect of bowel diseases point to the conclusion that the increased mortality rates were associated with the problem of general nutrition and food supply.

However, the maternal mortality rates for the year were 19·6 and 15·1 (crude and corrected) as against the average of 13·0 and 9·0 for the previous three years. This discrepancy is accounted for by the remarks made above.

*Vaccination and Immunization.*—27,281 persons were vaccinated by the Public Health Department staff during the year. Owing to the increasing incidence of enteric fever during the second half of the year preventive inoculation on a large scale was done. Apart from 3,639 inoculations done by the dispensary medical officers, 16,967 inoculations were done by the Medical Officer of Health, Epidemiology and Vital Statistics.

Most of the inoculations were done in schools and convents and Government and Mercantile establishments.

*General Sanitation.*—Routine sanitary work in respect of essential repairs and provision of latrine accommodation had to be curtailed owing to shortage of labour and materials, especially cement.

Dry-earth closets had to be allowed temporarily in several areas owing to lack of drainage materials.

Action in respect of closing orders and for improvement of insanitary dwellings had to be restricted to a very great extent on account of the acute shortage of housing accommodation consequent on fire-gap demolition and the requisitioning of private premises.

All these factors contributed to the set-back in the state of the public health during the year under review.

In a memorandum on the subject, I have already drawn the attention of the Council to the fact that there has been, as a result of the emergency conditions obtaining during several years past, a progressive deterioration, both apparent and insidious, of the sanitary conditions of the City.

This is a potential danger ; and the conditions being so favourable, if explosive outbursts of epidemics were to occur, they should not be looked upon with surprise.

The reports of the Special Officer, Chest Diseases ; the Medical Officer, Maternity and Child Welfare ; the City Microbiologist ; and the City Analyst are attached.

Town Hall,  
March 14, 1945.

C. H. GUNASEKARA,  
Chief Medical Officer of Health.

*Annexure A.*

## TUBERCULOSIS SERVICE.

## REPORT OF WORK DONE DURING THE YEAR 1944.

1. Total number of patients seen at Chest Clinics	...	...	977
New cases	... 366	{ (a) Diagnosed as Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... 157 (b) Diagnosed as Non-tubercular ... 107 (c) Under observation ... 102	
Subsequent visits	} 611		
Total	... 977		
2. Contacts examined by health visitors	... 1,009	{ (a) Negative ... 848 (b) Positive ... 161	
		Total	... 1,009
3. Diagnostic aid used	{ (a) Sputum ... 274 (b) Blood ... 3 (c) Faeces ... 6 (d) X'Rays (read & interpreted by Special Officer, Chest Diseases) ... 317		
4. Cases hospitalized	... 123	{ (a) Males ... 83 (b) Females ... 40	
5. Discharged patients	... 62	{ (a) Traced (by Health Visitors) ... 60 (b) Untraced or gone outstation ... 2	
6. Care and after-care	{ (a) Number of visits to families by Health Visitors ... 5,679 (b) Number of visits to families by Special Officer, Chest Diseases ... 551 (c) Number of families recommended for relief from Tuberculosis Vote ... 59*		
* Total amount spent on relief during 1944	...		Rs. 4,325
7. Number of patients isolated under domiciliary supervision	...		279
8. Health, Education and Propaganda :—			
(a) Advice to patients and their friends.			
(b) Leaflets distributed among patients and the public.			

I have to record that arrangements made with the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services for the co-ordination of our work have not proved satisfactory.

February 7, 1945.

MILANIUS DE ALMEIDA,  
Special Officer, Chest Diseases.

*Annexure B.*

## REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER, MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE, FOR 1944.

1944 has been a fruitful year. We have shown satisfactory results in all branches of our service. Towards the tail end of the year our work was interrupted to some extent owing to the incidence of smallpox in the City. Fifty per cent. of our field nurses were requisitioned for special duty.



